#### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

In re:

Case No. 21-61052-RKK

ANN M GERLING
Chapter 7

Debtor.

Judge Russ Kendig

# APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO EMPLOY RICHARD T. KIKO AGENCY INC. AS TRUSTEE'S REALTOR

Now comes Anthony J. DeGirolamo, Chapter 7 Trustee, by and through counsel, and hereby makes this Application for Authority to Employ Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. as Realtor for the purpose, reasons, and upon the terms set forth in this Application:

- 1. The Debtor filed a voluntary petition under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code on August 2, 2021, with Anthony J. DeGirolamo being appointed to serve as the Trustee (the "Trustee").
- 2. The Trustee seeks the Court's authorization to employ Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. ("Realtor") to conduct a sale of certain real property of the Debtor located at 10869 CH 58, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351, which has a scheduled value of \$160,000.00 and 19867 CH 85, Forest, Ohio 45843, which has a scheduled value of \$59,000.00.

- 3. The Trustee is informed and believes that the Realtor has the appropriate auction skills needed to perform the sale. The Realtor and George Kiko have agreed to perform such sale of the real property and have agreed to accept as its fee such amounts as are determined by the Court.
- 4. Subject to court approval, the Trustee and the Realtor have agreed that the Realtor is to be paid as follows: ten percent (10%) of the highest bid, plus expenses estimated to be \$1,500.00. A buyer's premium of ten percent (10%) will be added to the highest bid to establish the purchase price. The buyer's premium will be applied to the Realtor's commission so the estate will receive the highest bid amount less expenses. See Exhibit A attached hereto.
- 5. The Trustee believes that the granting of this Application is in the best interest of the creditors and the estate.
- 6. The Trustee has attempted to determine whether the Realtor is a disinterested persons within the meaning of 11 U.S.C. §101(14) and Rules 2014 and 2016(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure. Attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated herein is a Declaration and Verified Statement of George Kiko ("Kiko") supporting the Trustee's conclusion that the Realtor is a disinterested person within the meaning of the Bankruptcy Code and Rules.
- 7. Kiko is aware of the provisions of 11 U.S.C. §328 and has agreed on his own behalf and on behalf of the Realtor, notwithstanding the terms and conditions of employment set forth herein, that the Court may allow compensation different from the compensation provided herein if such terms and conditions prove to have been improvident in light of developments unanticipated at the time of the fixing of such terms and conditions.
- 8. For the foregoing and all other necessary and proper purposes, the Trustee desires to retain Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. as the Trustee's Realtor in this case.

WHEREFORE, the Trustee prays that the Court enter an order attached hereto as Exhibit C, granting this Application and that the Trustee be authorized to employ Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. as realtor to conduct a sale of the Debtor's real property on the terms and conditions contained in this Application, and grant any other and further relief that the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Anthony J. DeGirolamo
Anthony J. DeGirolamo (0059265)
3930 Fulton Drive NW, Suite 100B
Canton, Ohio 44718
Telephone: 330-305-9700

Facsimile: 330-305-9713 Email: tony@ajdlaw7-11.com

COUNSEL FOR THE CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on September 29, 2021, a copy of the foregoing Application was electronically transmitted via the Court's CM/ECF system to those listed on the Court's Electronic Mail Notice list:

- Patti Baumgartner-Novak PMBN@Buckeye-Express.com
- Anthony J. DeGirolamo tony@ajdlaw7-11.com, amber@ajdlaw7-11.com;G23630@notify.cincompass.com
- Anthony J. DeGirolamo, Trustee Mansfield tony@ajdlaw7-11.com, ad@trustesolutions.com;amber@ajdlaw7-11.com;AD07@trustesolutions.net
- John M Liming JLiming@clemenslawoffice.com
- United States Trustee (Registered address)@usdoj.gov

/s/ Anthony J. DeGirolamo
Anthony J. DeGirolamo

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Application was served via regular U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, upon those listed below, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

/s/ Anthony J. DeGirolamo
Anthony J. DeGirolamo

Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. Attn: George Kiko 2722 Fulton Drive NW Canton, Ohio 44718

## EXHIBIT A



Form 6/30/20

2722 Fulton Dr. NW Canton, Ohio44718 (330) 453-9187







REAL ESTATE AUCTION SALES LISTING CONTRACT

In consideration of your efforts to find a purchaser and to sell the real estate as described below, I or we ("Owners") hereby give or grant to KIKO Auctioneers and/or KIKO realtors ("Kiko") the exclusive right to sell said real estate, property known as:

10860 CH 58 Lipper Sanducky Object 43351 8, 10867 CH 85 Except Object 45843

10869 CH 58 Upper Sandusky Ohio 43351 8	k 19867 CH 85 F	orest Ohio 4584		
at PUBLIC "ABSOLUTE AUCTION" to be held on the 19 day an "absolute auction means that the property shall be sold to the highout require competing bids of any type or permit bidding by selles from the auction after the auction is opened and there is a public sthey intend to transfer ownership of the Property to the highest bi auction as defined on the reverse side of this agreement. Is this auction owners represent and warrant that they have full legal right and au Insurance, and fully intend to convey good and marketable title to to the highest bidder, subject to all legal highways and free and clear is a complete list of liens and encumbrances:	ghest bidder without rese r or an agent of seller, a solicitation or calling fo dder. Any auction subject to court apput tion subject to court apput thority to convey said re the Property with genera or of all liens and encum	erve, shall not require a and that the property of r bids. Owners repres ect to court approvals coval? XYes No eal estate to a purchase I warranty covenants	annot be withdrawn ent and warrant that s, by law, a reserve r, shall furnish Title and release of dower	
Owners further represent and warrant that Owners have the financia		off all liens and encur	nbrances and pay all	
commissions and fees on the Property even if sale proceeds are insu It is further agreed that:				
<ol> <li>The highest valid bidder in the discretion of the Kiko auctioneer consents to the policy of Kiko to either allow or disallow absen- sale.</li> </ol>	conducting the sale shatee bidding in the sole d	Il be the purchaser of t iscretion of the auction	he Property. Owner neer in charge of the	
<ol> <li>This auction will include a 10% Buyer's Premium to be added t KIKO shall retain the total Buyer's Premium dollar amount as y whichever is greater.</li> </ol>				
3. The Owners shall pay 100% of advertising cost as outlined on to Owner will advance KIKO \$ 0 for advertising expany balance due will be a cost of seller paid to Kiko from proce	he reverse of this agreen	nent. on will be credited back	to seller at closing,	
4 Ry initialing here. #9# the undersigned acknow	ledges that they have re	ad the provisions inclu	ding but not limited	
to advertising costs, multi parcel auction process, access commissions, and deposits, term of agreement, authorizing farbitration clause, fair housing, internet operating, and auction of	to property authorizat for "Auction Sale" sign definitions which are pri	ion, Owner bidding, s, MLS listing entry, nted on the reverse side	payments of fees, termination clause, of this agreement.	
<ol> <li>Privacy Consent. The undersigned hereby waive our privacy r may acquire and use for its own purposes the following informa-</li> </ol>	ights and agree that Kik ation:	o, of 2722 Fulton Dr.,	NW, Canton, Ohio,	
		(s)		
Payoff balance and status of all lien(s) and mortgage(s), Payof	, account number(s), account numer(s): rtgage(s), Payoff balance and status of the details of the closing of my property as			
set out on the closing statement or HUD Form.  Owner(s) federal tax identification number or social security nu	ımher(s):			
The undersigned authorizes & directs all of my/our mortgag	e or lien holders to pro	ovide to Kiko all of t	he above described	
information & further authorizes any closing/escrow agent to pr 6. Do you own the Mineral Interest? (Gas & Oil, Sand, Gravel, Co	rovide copies of disclosu oal, Other): YES	res & settlement stater NO XNOT SUR	nents to Kiko. E	
_XYesNo Owner agrees to sell & transfer ALL mineral ov	vnership rights they may	currently own with th	e property to buyer.	
Do you receive free gas, royalities of any kind, or are you in a c If Yes, details	oil & gas or mineral right	lease active or pendin	g? Yes _^ No	
7. Owner chooses to sell minerals &/or Oil&Gas rights SEPARAT <u>Mineral Interests Addendum</u> Yes X No	TE from surface or RES	SERVE the rights, see	the Selling	
8. Owner chooses to sell using the Multi Par Auction method, see	the Multi Parcel Auction	on Process Addendun	1 Yes <u>X</u> No	
9. Owner chooses to offer online internet bidding X Yes	No			
THIS IS A LEGALLY BINDING CONTRACT; IF	NOT UNDERSTOOD,	SEEK LEGAL COUN	SEL.	
This auctioneer is licensed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, under the Auction Recovery Fund.				
Agent/Auctioneer George Kiko	OWNER (S)	Trustee	Date 4/22/2	
Agent/Auctioneer		-	_ Date	
Attorney/title Company: Exclusive Title	Present Address 3	930 Fulton D	r NW	
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	S	uite 100B	-	
The Following expenses to be paid by Owners:		Canton Ohio 4	4718	
TERMITE INSPECTION: required on all residential property.	Email: Tony@	ajdlaw7-11.c	om	
Name to contact for access:	Phone #:	Cell#: <u>3</u>	303059700	
Phone #: Lead	Based Paint Disclosure	Attached (built prior to	1978) <u>X</u> yesno	
Company to Use: Reside ADVERTISING: Wyandot County 3x - Facebook - Local				
SIGNS: Yes NUMBER OF STIPLEYOR				
SURVEY, If required, paid for by:SURVEYOR CAUV status: WELL:Yes SEPTIC:Ye	S PORT-A-ION: No	MOBILECHER: No.	TENT:	
	<u>3_</u> PORT-A-JON: <u>NO</u> DDITIONAL INFO:	MODILECHER: NO	_ 1EN1;	

- All advertising costs including, but not limited to, preparation, promotion, signs, flyers and mailings shall be paid by Owners. If
  placed in the MLS (Multi Listing Service of Realtors), listing will be entered 2 weeks prior to auction date.
- 2. Owner authorizes KIKO & auctioneer in charge of the auction, in their sole discretion, to decide how to structure, advertise, and sell the real property including the possible utilization of the Multi Parcel Auction method. Multi Par Auction (ORC 4707.019Q) means any auction of real or personal property in which multiple parcels or lots are offered for sale in various amalgamations, including as individual parcels or lots, combinations of parcels or lots, and all parcels or lots as a whole.
- Owner authorizes KIKO and the auctioneer/realtor in charge of the auction to allow licensed appraisers, inspectors, and other professional service providers or government inspectors into the seller's property UNACCOMPAINED by a Kiko agent.
- Owners acknowledge that Owners, or an agent on their behalf, are not permitted to bid on or buy back their own real property being sold at auction.
- 5. All fees/commissions are earned upon execution of the contract of auction and are to be based on the sale price notwithstanding Buyer's or Owners' default or refusal or inability to transfer the property or otherwise complete the sale. Owner authorizes and directs escrow agent to pay Kiko all fees/commissions and all costs as set forth herein.
- 6. All fees/commissions to be based upon the sale of the Property either at the auction sale or otherwise from the date of this agreement through and including the 180th day following the auction sale date. All fees/commissions shall be deemed to be earned and shall be due and payable by Owners to Kiko whether the sale is at auction or otherwise negotiated by Kiko or by anyone else during said period. The fees/commission of 10% of gross sale price and all advertising, preparation, and promotion expenses will be paid by owner if property is sold prior to or after the auction.
- 7. A deposit is to be collected at the time of the sale by cash, check, note or other collateral at the discretion of Kiko, which shall be paid or credited to the Owners at the closing. Kiko makes no representation as to the validity or collectability of any check or note accepted as a deposit, nor does it undertake the responsibility for collecting said check or note. Owner shall be liable for all related check and other bank service fees.
- 8. Settlement shall include the collection of the balance due from Buyer, the transfer of title to Buyer and the payment of the costs of sale and disbursement of net proceeds to Owners. Owners authorize and direct the closing and settlement to be conducted by a third party settlement/escrow agent and authorize Kiko to transfer any deposits it receives and collects to the settlement/escrow agent.
- Owners authorize Kiko to deduct all fees/commissions and any other un-reimbursed costs from any cash it receives as a deposit from Purchaser, either at the time of transfer of funds to an escrow or settlement agent or at the time of disbursement to Owners or escrow agent.
- 10. Owners hereby authorize Kiko to place "Auction Sale" signs on the Property and to remove all other signs and have access to the Property at reasonable hours for purposes of showing same.
- 11. Owner acknowledges that compliance with many of the terms and provisions of this Agreement are mandated by state and federal statutes and regulations and good business practices, therefore, in the event that Broker, in Broker's sole opinion, determines that Owner cannot or will not comply with the requirements of state or federal law, cannot or will not comply with mandatory requirements of this agreement such as providing a responsible party in regard to payment of liens or being able to provide marketable title to a buyer or becomes uncooperative with Broker in the preparations for or the actual conducting of the auction sale then, in that event, Broker may elect to terminate this agreement and not conduct the auction sale. If the contract is terminated pursuant to this provision, Owner shall be liable to Broker for all out-of-pocket expenses incurred through the time the contract is cancelled.
- 12. Kiko Auctioneers is providing internet pre-auction and live bidding as a service to bidders. Owner and Bidders acknowledge and understand that this service may or may not function correctly the day of the auction. Under no circumstances shall a bidder or owner have a claim against Kiko Auctioneers, the seller, the buyer, Proxibid, or anyone else, if the internet service fails to operate correctly before or during the live auction. Kiko Auctioneers will not be responsible for any missed bids from any source. Internet bidders who desire to make certain their bids are acknowledged may use the online-bidding feature allowing them to leave a maximum bid 24 hours before the auction begins, which will not be disclosed to owner or auctioneer. Kiko Auctioneers reserves the right to withdraw property in the auction.
- 13. Absolute auction means that the property shall be sold to the highest bidder without reserve, shall not require a minimum bid, shall not require competing bids of any type or permit bidding by seller or an agent of seller, and that the property cannot be withdrawn from the auction after the auction is opened and there is a public solicitation or calling for bids.
- 14. Reserve auction means an auction in which the seller or an agent of the seller reserves the right to establish a stated minimum bid, the right to reject or accept any or all bids, or the right to withdraw the real or personal property at any time prior to the completion of the auction by the auctioneer.
- 15. <u>Fair Housing</u>: It is illegal, pursuant to the Ohio Fair Housing Law, Division (H) of Section 4112.02 of the Revised Code and the federal fair housing law, 42 U.S.C.A. 3601, as amended, to refuse to sell, transfer, assign, rent, lease, sublease, or finance housing accomodations, refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of housing accomodations, or otherwise deny or make unavailable housing accomodations because of race, color, religion, sex, familiar status as defined in Section 4112.01 of the Revised Code, ancestry, military status as defined in that Section, disability as defined in that Section, or national origin or to so discriminate in advertising the sale or rental of housing, in the financing of housing, or the provision of real estate brokerage services. It is also illegal, for profit, to induce or attempt to induce a person to sell or rent a dwelling by representations regarding the entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons belonging to one of the protected classes.
- 16. In the event a dispute arises concerning this contract and/or the performance of Owner(s) or Kiko (including any Owner, officer, agent or employee of Kiko) arising out of or in any way related to this contract or any of their acts or performance in connection therewith, the dispute shall be submitted to binding arbitration through and pursuant to the rules of the American Arbitration Association or similar arbitration organization. By agreeing to arbitration, all parties waive their right to court or jury trial. The party first filing shall have the right to select the arbitration association to hear the matter. All claims, including cross-claims and counterclaims, must be brought in the arbitration or are waived. It is understood that the arbitration will be administered by said arbitration association and will include the use of its arbitrators. The arbitrator shall have actual experience with the sale of the type of property being sold pursuant to this contract. All issues of arbitrability shall be determined solely by the arbitrator. All costs and/or fees of the arbitration shall be equally divided among all parties to the arbitration and all parties to the arbitration shall be solely responsible for paying their own attorney's fees. All incidental, consequential, and punitive damages of any type or nature are hereby waived by all parties to this contract. Any and all disputes, whether by arbitration or otherwise, shall be venued, heard and decided in Stark County, Ohio, unless agreed to by Owner(s) and Kiko.

Form 6/30/20

## EXHIBIT B

#### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

In re:	Case No. 21-61052-RKK
ANN M GERLING	Chapter 7
Debtor.	Judge Russ Kendig

# DECLARATION AND VERIFIED STATEMENT OF GEORGE KIKO, RICHARD T. KIKO AGENCY, INC.

The undersigned, George Kiko, hereby states:

- 1. He is an auctioneer duly licensed by the State of Ohio to conduct a sale of the assets described in the annexed Application to Employ Realtor (the "Application").
- 2. That he is an employee of Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc., and that all the employees of Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. who may be rendering similar services are also duly licensed Realtors in the State of Ohio.
- 3. That he has read the Application and that he and Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc., agree to and approve all the terms and conditions therein.
- 4. That neither he nor Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. has any connection with the Debtor, the Trustee, the Creditors, or any other party in interest, or their respective attorneys and/or accountants, the United States Trustee or any person employed in the Office of the United States Trustee.

- 5. That he and Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. are disinterested persons and do not hold or represent any interest adverse to the interest of the estate.
- 6. That neither he nor any employee of Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. is a relative of the Bankruptcy Judge approving the employment of Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc., and no employee of Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc., including George Kiko is or has been connected with the United States Trustee or the Bankruptcy Judge so as to render the appointment of Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. improper.

Verified under pen	alty of perjury the	at the foregoing is true and correct this $27$	day of
September, 2021.		$\mathcal{M}$	
		George Kiko	_
STATE OF OHIO	)	•	
COUNTY OF STARK	) SS: )		

SWORN, TO BEFORE me and subscribed in my presence by George Kiko on this day of Line 11, 2021.

Notary Public

DENISE R. JONES
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires 03-08-2023

## **EXHIBIT C**

### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

In re:

Case No. 21-61052-RKK

ANN M GERLING
Chapter 7

Debtor.

Judge Russ Kendig

# ORDER AUTHORIZING THE TRUSTEE TO RETAIN AND EMPLOY RICHARD T. KIKO AGENCY INC.

This matter coming to be heard on the Application of the Trustee for Authority to Retain and Employ Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. (the "Realtor") (the "Application"), filed by the duly appointed chapter 7 trustee in the above-captioned chapter 7 case (the "Trustee"); the Court having reviewed the Application and the Disclosure of Compensation and Verified Statement of George Kiko, attached to the Application as Exhibit A (the "Verified Statement"); the Court finding that: (a) the Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334; (b) this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); (c) venue of this chapter 7 case and the Application is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and (d) notice of the

Application was sufficient under the circumstance; and the Court having determined that the

legal and factual bases set forth in the Application and the Verified Statement establish just cause

for the relief granted herein;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Application shall be, and hereby is, GRANTED.

2. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the meanings given to them

in the Application and the Verified Statement.

3. The Trustee is authorized to retain and employ the Realtor in the Debtor's chapter

7 case, pursuant to section 327(a) of the Bankruptcy Code or Bankruptcy Rule 2014, and the

terms set forth in the Application.

4. The Realtor shall be compensated for such services and reimbursed for any

related expenses at the closing of the sale of the Debtor's real property in accordance with

applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Bankruptcy

Rules and any other applicable orders of this Court.

###

PREPARED BY:

Anthony J. DeGirolamo (0059265)

3930 Fulton Drive NW, Suite 100B

Canton, Ohio 44718

Telephone: 330-305-9700

Facsimile: 330-305-9713

Email: tony@ajdlaw7-11.com

COUNSEL FOR THE

**CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE** 

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on	021, a copy of the foregoing Order was
electronically transmitted via the Court's CM/EC	
Electronic Mail Notice list:	•
<ul> <li>Patti Baumgartner-Novak PMBN@Buckey</li> </ul>	ve-Express.com
• Anthony J. DeGirolamo tony@ajdlaw7-11	.com, amber@ajdlaw7-
11.com;G23630@notify.cincompass.com	<u> </u>
• Anthony J. DeGirolamo, Trustee - Mansfield	tony@ajdlaw7-11.com,
ad@trustesolutions.com;amber@ajdlaw7-11.	com;AD07@trustesolutions.net
• John M Liming JLiming@clemenslawoffic	ce.com
<ul> <li>United States Trustee (Registered address)</li> </ul>	@usdoj.gov
	Deputy Clerk
	41.6 . 0.1
The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of	
U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, upon those listed below,	this, day of, 2021.
	D
	Deputy Clerk
D' 1 1 T IZ'I A I	

Richard T. Kiko Agency, Inc. Attn: George Kiko 2722 Fulton Drive NW Canton, Ohio 44718